

GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1989, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to reauthorize various fishing conservation management programs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2440 and H.R. 1989.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

#### LAND CONVEYANCE TO CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2595) to direct the Secretary of the Army to convey a parcel of land to Chatham County, Georgia, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2595

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE TO CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall convey, by quitclaim deed and without consideration, to the Commissioners of Chatham County, Georgia, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 12-acre parcel of land located on Hutchinson Island, Georgia, adjacent to the Savannah Harbor Tide Gate structure.

(b) SURVEY TO OBTAIN LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—The exact acreage and the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey that is satisfactory to the Secretary.

#### (c) USE OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The parcel conveyed under this section shall remain in public ownership and shall be managed in perpetuity for public recreational purposes or, in the alternative, the parcel may be exchanged for another parcel of equal appraised value that shall remain in public ownership and shall be managed in perpetuity for public recreational purposes.

(2) REVERSION.—If the Secretary determines that the parcel conveyed under this section is being used for purposes other than public recreational purposes, title to the parcel shall revert to the United States or, in the case of an exchange of parcels under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the parcel received in the exchange is being used for purposes other than public recreational purposes title to that parcel shall revert to the United States.

#### (d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) APPLICABILITY OF PROPERTY SCREENING PROVISIONS.—Section 2696 of title 10, United

States Code, shall not apply to the conveyance under this section.

(2) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require that the conveyance under this section be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The County shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental compliance costs, associated with the conveyance.

(4) LIABILITY.—The County shall hold the United States harmless from any liability with respect to activities carried out, on or after the date of the conveyance, on the real property conveyed. The United States shall remain responsible for any liability with respect to activities carried out, before such date, on the real property conveyed.

(5) EASEMENTS.—The County shall provide to the Secretary all required rights of entry or easements necessary for utilities and for access to the Savannah Harbor Tide Gate structure and the dock located adjacent to the structure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Many years ago, Mr. Speaker, Chatham County, Georgia, donated approximately 12 acres of land on Hutchinson Island to the Federal Government so that the Corps of Engineers could build the Savannah River Tide Gate Structure. That project was closed in 1991 and the operational gates were removed. As a result, according to the Corps of Engineers, the Federal Government no longer needs this property.

Chatham County now would like to have this excess land returned to them so it could be used as part of an economic development project and a public recreational park. Without this legislation, the government has to follow a lengthy process for disposing of the property. This bill allows the property to go back to the county that gave up the land in the first place and will expedite an important local project that will benefit the public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the author of the bill and, presumably, from Chatham County, Georgia, to explain it to us further.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) for his indulgence.

This simply lets the Corps of Engineers get rid of some excess property they do not want anymore. It allows the county to take that property and trade it to a private developer, 12 acres; but in exchange, they are going to get 40 acres back. I know the gentleman

from Colorado will be interested to know that they are going to have a natural park in those 40 acres that is going to be ecologically sensitive, a passive park, which I know the gentleman from Boulder is familiar with.

So this is a very good piece of legislation with bipartisan support by the local folks and the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I know a comment was made a while ago about country music or country western music, and as the representative from Nashville, Tennessee, or Country Music USA, I appreciate the comments. I want my colleagues to know that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and myself and some others had the opportunity to sing on the Grand Ole Opry not long ago, which was an experience of a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bill H.R. 2595, a bill to convey a 12-acre parcel of land to Chatham County, Georgia, for public recreational purposes. This transfer will be accomplished without cost to the United States and for the benefit of the local citizens. The amended bill addresses a few issues from the original bill and should be supported by the House.

The land that would be transferred under this bill is not needed by the Corps of Engineers to carry out the purposes of the federally authorized project. The bill includes requirements to provide the Secretary of the Army rights of entry or easements so that the Corps can operate the project without hindrance.

Chatham County is responsible for all of the administrative costs of the land conveyance. In addition, the United States is protected from any environmental liability that may arise after the conveyance.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the land that is being conveyed to the county will be exchanged for another parcel of land. The bill before us stipulates that the exchanged parcel will be kept in public ownership and used for public recreational purposes. The exchange will also be conducted on an equal-value basis. I urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

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Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would notify the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) that I am sorry that I missed their performance on the Grand Old Opry; maybe on the return trip.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2595, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to transfer land to Chatham County, GA, to enhance recreation opportunities in that locale.

The land transfer authorized under this bill is similar to transfers that our committee often approves as part of the Water Resources Development Acts. However, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. KINGSTON, has indicated that swift action is necessary in advance of next year's Water Resources Development Act so that this project may proceed in a timely manner.

The amended bill considered by the House today conforms the bill to the typical terms and conditions associated with land transfers. The revised language ensures that the transfer occurs at no cost to the Federal taxpayer and at no loss to the U.S. Treasury. In addition, the land will be maintained in public ownership for public benefit. If this particular parcel of land is transferred by the county, the transfer must be for lands of equal value, further protecting the interest of the taxpayer. Finally, if the lands are put to use other than as authorized by this bill, ownership of the lands will revert to the United States. As is always done, the land transfer preserves for the United States any easement or rights-of-way necessary to operate and maintain the existing Federal project.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on H.R. 2595.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2595, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMENDING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 259) expressing the sense of Congress regarding the relief efforts undertaken by charitable organizations and the people of the United States in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 259

Whereas the people of the United States have a long and honorable tradition of assisting individuals, families, and communities in need;

Whereas charitable organizations play a vital role in delivering services to individuals and families that are in need of relief;

Whereas charitable organizations are providing relief to the victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and their families;

Whereas the people of the United States have been extremely generous in contributing to charitable organizations that pro-

vide relief to the victims of the terrorist attacks and their families; and

Whereas more than \$1,000,000,000 has been collected for charitable work related to the terrorist attacks: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) praises the people of the United States for their patriotism and generosity in donating their money, time, and blood to support the victims of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, and their families;

(2) commends charitable organizations for their hard work in providing needed assistance to the individuals and families who have been affected by the terrorist attacks;

(3) urges charitable organizations to use the money collected from the people of the United States for the purposes for which the money was donated, and to limit the extent to which such money is used for administrative costs; and

(4) condemns individuals and groups that fraudulently use contributions for objectives unrelated to the purpose for which the contributions were made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 259 expresses the sense of Congress regarding the relief efforts undertaken by charitable organizations and the people of the United States in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Mr. Speaker, the tremendous outpouring of assistance in the wake of the September 11 attacks has become something of an epic legend. Over \$1 billion has been collected to support the relief efforts across the country.

These organizations serve a vital role in these relief efforts. They were the ones providing hot meals and medical care to the rescuers; they were the ones providing grief counselors to victims and their families; they were the ones ensuring that the displaced had a place to sleep and food to eat; and they are the ones that continue to serve at Ground Zero in New York and at the Pentagon, and wherever victims and their families are located.

The resolution does not mention the work by Federal, State, and local governments; but I want to commend each of them for their effort after the terrorist attacks and that which continues today. FEMA, the Small Business Administration, and the State of New York disaster assistance programs have contributed over \$696 million.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. It is fitting that the Congress, through its sense of Congress resolution, praise the good efforts of generous Americans and condemn those that abused this trust.

I commend the important work done by the Federal, State, and local gov-

ernments and charities and individual volunteers, and urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 259, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the relief efforts undertaken by charitable organizations and the American people in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001.

I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for sponsoring this legislation. Our country has a long and proud tradition of helping families and communities in need, and our charitable organizations have often played a critical role in delivering these services.

Immediately after the September 11 terrorist attacks, thousands of volunteers began to donate their services, their talents, and even their blood. But they did not stop there. The people of the United States have been extremely generous in donating their money to various charitable organizations that provide relief to the victims of terrorist attacks and their families. In fact, more than \$1 billion has already been collected for charitable work related to the terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, Congress commends the people of this country for their patriotism and unwavering generosity in donating not only their money but their time and efforts, as well. We also commend the various charitable organizations for their tireless efforts in providing assistance to the victims and their families who have been affected by the terrorist attacks. We expect the money collected for this disaster to be used for this disaster. To do otherwise would be an insult to the memory of the victims of the tragedy, and it would be a betrayal of the public trust.

I wholeheartedly support this resolution to recognize our Nation's citizens who selflessly and generously gave their time, effort, and money after the September 11 attack. By supporting these charitable efforts, we salute and pay tribute to the victims of this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the author of the legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, since the devastating events of September 11, Americans young and old have opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to help the victims of this terrible tragedy. To date,